

# BAILEY BULLETIN



## Representative Barbara Bailey★ 10th District

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

I hope this newsletter finds you well and that you are enjoying all the things that our spring season has to offer.

The 2008 legislative session concluded on March 13 after 60 busy days. As you read through my newsletter, you will see there were some “hits” this year – and some “misses.”

My number one priority this year was to address our Keystone – Port Townsend ferry run. I am happy to report our transportation budget includes \$85 million to construct three new vessels for this run.

The legislative session also saw progress in strengthening laws pertaining to sex offenders, identity theft and gangs, in addition to funding for 10<sup>th</sup> District needs.

Our state continues to face challenges in education funding, health care, transportation, and other areas that need to be met head-on with bold solutions. The status quo is not working. Bold solutions are going to require real change in Olympia.

It is an honor to serve the people of the 10<sup>th</sup> District. I am always happy to help and encourage you to contact me if I can ever be of assistance.

Hopefully, I will see you at one of my “coffee talks” or maybe at the supermarket.

Sincerely,

Rep. Barbara Bailey



### **Please join me in a community forum – from your home**

I am holding a community forum – on the telephone. This allows you an opportunity to dial-in and participate from the comfort of your home. Here are the details:

**Monday, May 12 – 7:00 PM**

1. Dial 1-866-447-5149
2. Enter Pin Number 13521
3. Listen-in and participate!

**If you would like to receive  
my e-newsletters in the  
future, please send me  
your e-mail address at:  
[bailey.barbara@leg.wa.gov](mailto:bailey.barbara@leg.wa.gov)**

**P.O. Box 40600 • Olympia, WA 98504-0600  
Web site: [www.houserepublicans.wa.gov/Bailey](http://www.houserepublicans.wa.gov/Bailey)  
E-mail: [bailey.barbara@leg.wa.gov](mailto:bailey.barbara@leg.wa.gov)  
Phone: (360) 786-7914  
Toll-free legislative hotline: 1-800-562-6000**

# Representative **Barbara Bailey** • 10th District



*Rep. Bailey speaks about ferry issues on the House floor.*

## LOCAL PROJECTS FUNDED IN CAPITAL BUDGET

The capital budget is providing nearly \$17.5 million for 21 projects in the 10<sup>th</sup> District. Some of these projects include:

- Oak Harbor Veterans Memorial
- Camano Community Health Clinic
- Wiley Slough Restoration
- Freeland Sewer District
- Farmland Preservation

If you would like the complete list, please contact me.

## HELP FOR THE KEYSTONE – PORT TOWNSEND FERRY RUN

My number one priority this year was to address our Keystone – Port Townsend ferry run. Our transportation budget provides \$85 million to construct three new vessels for the run.

Our budget also includes \$357,000 to pay for two additional trips per day on the run from May 19 through Sept. 8.

As you may recall, similar promises were made in 2003 – and they were not kept. It is essential the governor and her Department of Transportation deliver this time. Our marine highways must remain open to accommodate commuters, tourists, businesses, and the military.

As I have said all along, we must build the right boat for the job and restore ferry service as soon as possible. It is important that our ferry system is reliable and meets the needs of our communities in the future. These are the goals I will continue to work toward in Olympia.



## STRENGTHENING OUR LOCAL ECONOMY

Our local economy continues to reveal its strengths and diversity, and it is important we continue this momentum.

Serving as ranking Republican on the Community, Economic Development and Trade Committee allows me to be directly involved with economic development, business assistance and financing, tourism, and international trade.

### *Local economic development funding for Island County*

I sponsored **House Bill 2527** this year – a technical fix to legislation last year that inadvertently excluded Island County from receiving local economic development funding based on a definition of “rural county.”

The measure passed the House unanimously on Feb. 15, but died in the Senate. Fortunately, my concept resurfaced in the state operating budget.

Island County will now receive \$80,000 in local economic development funding. This is important – especially considering our ferry challenges.

### *Mitigation funding for Whidbey Island*

More good news – \$25,000 was added to the Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development (CTED) budget for mitigation money for the Whidbey Island side of the Keystone – Port Townsend ferry run. Port Townsend will also benefit from similar funding.

This funding will allow Whidbey Island to work with CTED to develop a detailed economic plan. I am encouraged by the local control aspect of this funding and look forward to our community maximizing the opportunity.

### *Giving beekeepers a break*

I supported a measure this legislative session that will help our local beekeepers.

Senate Bill 6468 will exempt beekeepers from the business and occupation (B&O) tax on the wholesale sale of honey and honey bee products, the B&O tax on bee pollination services, and the sales and use tax on the sale of pollinating bees.

# Representative Barbara Bailey • 10th District

## EXCESSIVE STATE SPENDING

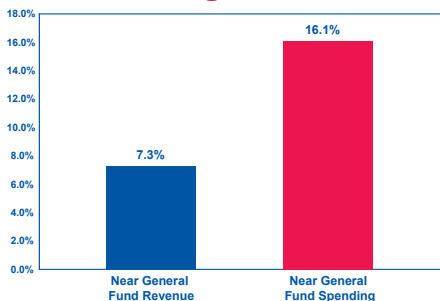
State spending has increased by over 33 percent – \$8.7 billion – since 2004.

Our state spending growth rate is 16.1 percent, but our revenue growth rate is only 7.3 percent. We do not have a revenue problem in Olympia – 7.3 percent is healthy growth. But we do have a spending problem.

Nonpartisan Senate staff is projecting a \$2.5 billion budget shortfall next year. Not only could this lead to tax increases, it also prevents providing real property tax and other relief to families.

If the state cannot control spending, it cannot control taxes. It is that simple. We must rein-in excessive state spending.

**State spending growth rate is more than twice the state revenue growth rate**



## NO PROPERTY TAX RELIEF

Despite promises from the majority party, no property tax relief was offered this year. I supported three measures that would have provided real property tax relief and other protections for families, but they did not even receive hearings:



- **House Bill 3353** would have eliminated the state portion of the property tax.
- **House Bill 2419** would have given homeowners who paid property taxes in 2007 a \$400 rebate check.
- **House Bill 2418** would have required voter approval to use banked property tax levy capacity.



## STATUS QUO ON HEALTH CARE

It is with disappointment I tell you that no meaningful health care legislation passed this year. Instead, the 16<sup>th</sup> health care study since 2005 was established to study our problems further.

Health care is a complicated issue, but at some point we need more decisions and fewer commissions. I believe that time is now. The status quo on health care is not getting it done.

I supported three measures that would have provided assistance to the uninsured, small businesses and self-employed. Unfortunately, the majority party rejected them:

- **House Bill 3384** was a multi-pronged approach that would have offered affordable, flexible health insurance.
- **House Bill 1539** would have provided access to health insurance for small employers and their employees.
- **House Bill 1638** would have provided tax incentives for employer-provided health care.

## ENSURING OUR COMMUNITIES ARE SAFE

Important steps were taken this year to strengthen laws pertaining to sex offenders, identity thieves, gangs, and those who elude law enforcement. I worked with my fellow state lawmakers to pass the following measures into law:

- **House Bill 2713** will expand our state sex offender/felon DNA database.
- **House Bill 2637** will help victims of identity theft recover from the crimes.
- **House Bill 2712** will provide a statewide definition of a gang, gang member and gang crime, as well as create a statewide gang database. It will also provide funding for additional law enforcement resources in fighting gangs.
- **House Bill 1030** will increase sentencing for someone who endangers the public while eluding a police officer.





# Representative Barbara Bailey • 10th District

## "Hits and Misses"

### "Hits" from the 2008 legislative session

- ✓ Help for the Keystone – Port Townsend ferry run
- ✓ Strengthening our local economy
- ✓ Local economic development funding for Island County
- ✓ Local projects funded in capital budget
- ✓ Strengthening sex offender, identity theft, gangs, and eluding laws

### "Misses"

- ✗ Excessive state spending
- ✗ No property tax relief
- ✗ Status quo on health care



## Do you need a speaker?

If you or your group needs a speaker, I would enjoy the opportunity to discuss issues and take questions. I always look forward to talking with the people I have the honor to represent. Please contact me at (360) 786-7914 or [bailey.barbara@leg.wa.gov](mailto:bailey.barbara@leg.wa.gov) if you are interested.

## HEARING FROM YOU

This is the final newsletter I can send you in 2008 since it is an election year. I also cannot send out electronic newsletters.

Fortunately, I am allowed to respond to constituents who contact me. If you ever have feedback or questions, please contact me. I look forward to hearing from you!

Please join me in a  
local "coffee talk"

**Wednesday, May 21**  
Oak Harbor 7:30 – 8:30 AM

Solid Ground Coffee Shop  
275 SE Cabot Drive, Suite A9

**Thursday, May 22**

Freeland 10:00 – 11:00 AM

1504 Coffee Bar and Deli

18220 State Route 525, #7

**Coupeville 12:00 – 1:00 PM**

Miriam's Espresso Café

200 South Main Street

**Friday, May 23**

Stanwood 9:00 – 10:00 AM

Starbucks – 26802 92<sup>nd</sup> Ave. NW, Ste. D1

**Camano Island 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM**

Islander's Restaurant

848 North Sunrise Boulevard, Bldg. D

# BAILEY BULLETIN

Representative  
**Barbara Bailey**

P.O. Box 40600  
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

PRSRST STD  
US POSTAGE PAID  
WA STATE DEPT  
OF PRINTING 98501